(c) how many lease cases have been signed on or before the expiry of lease period and transferred to other holders violating the provisions of FCA in Kerala and the details of such cases with extent and district-wise statistics thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Kerala. After receipt of the information, a statement shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Basmati Rice in India and Pakistan

*287. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has succeeded in acquiring favourable position in the battle of Basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to regain its supremacy in the production of Indian Basmati?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. From available reports India has a share of around 53% of global basmati trade while Pakistan has around 47% share.

(b) Does not arise

(c) To continue retaining its hold over the international market and further strengthen production, the Government implements the Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Rice-based Cropping Systems Area (ICDP-Rice), which includes Basmati rice also. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for demonstration of technology, varietal improvement through seed replacement and availability of modern implements.

Assistance for market promotion, infrastructure development and quality upgradation is also provided for exports of Basmati.

Survey of wildlife in Papikonda Game Sanctuary

*289. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were repeated demands from

environmentalists in West Godavari of Andhra Pradesh for a proper survey of the wildlife in Papikonda Game Sanctuary;

(b) if so, the details of these demands and when they were made;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government refused to entertain such legitimate demands;

(d) what steps Government would take to review such refusals; and

(e) whether such funds meant for surveys have been spent on foreign travel by the officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some concerns about Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary were expressed in the year 2001. However, specific requests to undertake census of wild animals in Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary were received in the Ministry during the years 2004 and 2005.

(c) No Sir. Management of Sanctuaries, including census of wild species, in the area is vested with the concerned State Government. These requests were, therefore, forwarded to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for appropriate action. Hence the question of refusal by Government to entertain such requests does not arise. The census were carried out by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and as per the information received from the State Government, the condition of Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary is satisfactory.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No Sir.

Spurious seeds, fertilizers, etc.

*290. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that substandard/spurious/fake inputs for farming, namely, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, etc., are galore in the market, which affect adversely the farming community;

(b) if so, the action taken against the culprits/cheats/adulterators/ pseudo-manufacturers, etc.;